

CLAIM AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following listing.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of searching intellectual property listings, comprising:

- a) maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;
- b) establishing a connection to a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings available for transacting;
- c) receiving from at least one of said plurality of users search criteria for searching said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings;
- d) searching said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings according to said search criteria;
- e) presenting a resulting set of intellectual property listings to said at least one of said plurality of users; and
- f) receiving from said at least one of said plurality of users an identification of those of said resulting set of intellectual property listings that are of interest to said at least one of said plurality of users.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

securing permission from each of said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings for allowing a search of each said plurality of third-party sources.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

securing from each of said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings a fee-sharing agreement.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

establishing contact between said at least one of said plurality of users and those of said plurality of third-party sources including those of said resulting set of intellectual property listings which are of interest to said at least one of said plurality of users.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the step of establishing contact includes the steps of:

- a) hyperlinking said user with said those of said plurality of third-party sources; and
- b) transmitting to said those of said plurality of third-party sources a unique identifier for identifying said user-interface site as the source of a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing said at least one of said plurality of users with a transaction manager to facilitate a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, further comprising the step of:

having said transaction manager contact those of said plurality of third-party sources including those of said resulting set of intellectual property listings which are of interest to said at least one of said plurality of users to facilitate said contemplated intellectual property transaction.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of searching said plurality of third-party sources includes the steps of:

a) designating a buffer memory for temporary storage of intellectual property listings matching said search criteria;

b) reformatting said search criteria according to requirements of each of said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

c) searching through the intellectual property listings of said each of said plurality of third-party sources for matches with said respective reformatted search criteria; and

d) collecting such intellectual property listings that match said reformatted criteria and storing said listings in said buffer memory.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of:

reformatting said intellectual property listings stored in said buffer memory in a predetermined format prior to presentation thereof to said at least one of said plurality of users.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of:

reordering said intellectual property listings stored in said buffer memory according to predefined criteria prior to presentation thereof to said at least one of said plurality of users.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

making available to said at least one of said plurality of users analytical tools for valuation and analysis of the intellectual property.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

making available to said user escrow services related to a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising step of:

making available to said user title insurance covering the intellectual property which is the subject of a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step:

making available to said user patent validity insurance covering the intellectual property which is the subject of a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

making available to said user consulting services related to a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

making available to said user legal services related to a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein step of searching said plurality of third-party sources includes the steps of:

- a) designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;
- b) taking a snapshot of each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;
- c) storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;
- d) reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format;
- e) storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area;
- f) taking a new snapshot of one of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;
- g) comparing said new snapshot with said snapshot of the same third-party source in said first memory storage area and identifying any changes;
- h) reformatting said changes in said predetermined format;
- i) updating the corresponding said reformatted snapshot in said second memory storage area with said reformatted changes;
- j) replacing said snapshot in said first memory storage area with said corresponding new snapshot; and
- k) repeating steps f) through j) for each of said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

- a) designating a buffer memory for temporary storage of intellectual property listings matching said search criteria;
- b) searching through said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area for matches with said search criteria; and

c) collecting such intellectual property listings that match said criteria and storing said listings in said buffer memory.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said third-party sources are Internet auction sites.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said user-interface site is a website.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of searching intellectual property listings online, comprising the steps of:

- a) maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;
- b) maintaining access to a predetermined set of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;
- c) eliciting from each user search criteria for searching each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;
- d) designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;
- e) taking a snapshot of each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;
- f) storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;
- g) reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format; ~~and~~
- h) storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area; ~~and area~~.
- h1) searching through said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area for matches with the user search criteria.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

- i) taking a new snapshot of one of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;
- j) comparing said new snapshot with said snapshot of the same third-party source in said first memory storage area and identifying any changes;
- k) reformatting said changes in said predetermined format;
- l) updating the corresponding said reformatted snapshot in said second memory storage area with said reformatted changes;
- m) replacing said snapshot in said first memory storage area with said corresponding new snapshot;
- n) repeating steps e) through m) for each of said predetermined set of third-party sources of intellectual property listings; and
- o) repeating at least once steps e) through n).

23. (Original) The method of Claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

- p) presenting a resulting set of intellectual property listings to said user; and
- q) eliciting from said user an identification of those intellectual property listings which are of interest.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of:

- r) securing permission from each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings allowing search of said third-party sources and presenting listings therefrom to said user.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising the step of:

s) securing from each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings a fee-sharing agreement in respect of any fees paid as a result of transactions arising out of contacts initially made through said user-interface site.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of:

r) establishing contact between said user and the third party maintaining said intellectual property listings which are of interest.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein said establishing contact comprises the steps of:

1) hyperlinking said user with said third party maintaining said intellectual property listings which are of interest; and

2) transmitting to said third party a unique identifier, identifying said user-interface site as the source of a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of:

r) providing said user with a transaction manager to facilitate a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 28, further comprising the step of:

s) said transaction manager contacting said third party maintaining the listings of the intellectual property being of interest to said user to facilitate said transaction.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

r) designating a buffer memory for temporary storage of intellectual property listings matching said search criteria elicited from said user;

s) searching through said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area for matches with said search criteria; and

t) collecting such intellectual property listings that match said criteria and storing said listings in said buffer memory.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 30, further comprising the step of:

u) reformatting said intellectual property listings stored in said buffer memory in a predetermined format prior to presentation thereof to said user.

32. (Original) The method of Claim 30, further comprising the step of reordering said intellectual property listings stored in said buffer memory according to predefined criteria prior to presentation thereof to said user.

33. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of making available to said user analytical tools for valuation and analysis of the intellectual property, wherein said analytical tools are not available from the third party maintaining said intellectual property listings which are of interest.

34. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising making available to said user escrow services related to a contemplated intellectual property transaction, wherein said services are not

available from the third party maintaining said listings of said intellectual property which are of interest.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of making available to said user title insurance covering the intellectual property which is the subject of a contemplated intellectual property transaction, wherein said title insurance is not available from the third party maintaining intellectual property listings which are of interest.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of making available to said user patent validity insurance covering the intellectual property which is the subject of a contemplated intellectual property transaction, wherein said patent validity insurance is not available from the third party maintaining said intellectual property listings which are of interest.

37. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of making available to said user consulting services related to a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

38. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of making available to said user legal services related to a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

39. (Currently Amended) A method of searching listings of goods or services available for transacting, comprising:

- a) maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;

b) establishing a connection to a plurality of third-party sources of said goods or services available for transacting;

c) receiving from at least one of said plurality of ~~user~~ users search criteria for searching said plurality of third-party sources;

d) searching said plurality of third-party sources according to said search criteria;

e) presenting a resulting set of goods or services listings to said at least one of said plurality of users; and

f) receiving from said at least one of said plurality of users an identification of those of said resulting set of goods or services listings that are of interest to said at least one of said plurality of users.

40. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein said goods comprise businesses available for sale, merger or acquisition.

41. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein said goods comprise venture capital available for investment.

42. (Original) The method of Claim 39, further comprising providing a transaction manager to facilitate a contemplated transaction between said user and the provider of said goods or services.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein said third-party listings are comprised by Internet auction sites.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein said user-interface site is a website.

45. (Original) A system for searching for a desired one of many items offered on the Internet, where said items are presented on third-party user-interface sites in multiple lists, said lists being in differing formats, comprising:

- a) means for hosting a user-interface site;
- b) means for eliciting at least one identifying characteristic of the desired item from a user;
- c) means for reformatting said identifying characteristic of the desired item elicited from said user in accordance with the requirements of each of said third-party user-interface sites;
- d) means for searching each of said multiple lists to identify each item listed therein possessing said at least one identifying characteristic and compiling a list thereof;
- e) means for reformatting at least one of said lists of items possessing said at least one identifying characteristic into a predetermined format; and
- f) means for presenting said reformatted list to said user for further selection of the desired item.

46. (Original) The system as in Claim 45, wherein said means for hosting is a computer server.

47. (Original) The system as in Claim 45, wherein said hosted user-interface site is a website and said third-party user-interface sites comprise Internet auction sites.

48. (Original) A system for searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

- a) means for maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;

b) means for maintaining access to a predetermined set of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;

c) means for eliciting from each user search criteria for searching each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

d) means for searching said predetermined set of third-party sources of intellectual property listings in accord with said search criteria elicited from said user;

e) means for presenting a resulting set of intellectual property listings to said user; and

f) means for eliciting from said user an identification of those listings of said set of intellectual property listings which are of interest.

49. (Original) A system for searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

a) means for maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;

b) means for maintaining access to a predetermined set of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;

c) means for eliciting from each user search criteria for searching each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

d) means for designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;

e) means for taking a snapshot of each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

f) means for storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;

g) means for reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format; and

h) means for storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area.

50. (Original) A method of searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

- a) maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;
- b) designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;
- c) taking a snapshot of each of a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;
- d) storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;
- e) reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format; and
- f) storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area.

51. (Original) A system for searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

- a) means for maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;
- b) means for designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;
- c) means for taking a snapshot of each of a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;
- d) means for storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;
- e) means for reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format; and
- f) means for storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area.

52. (Currently Amended) A method of searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

- a) designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;
- b) taking a snapshot of each of a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;
- c) storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;
- d) reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format; ~~and~~
- e) storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area; and ~~area.~~
- f) searching through said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area for matches with a user search criteria.

53. (Currently Amended) A system for searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

- a) means for designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;
- b) means for taking a snapshot of each of a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;
- c) means for storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;
- d) means for reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format; ~~and~~
- e) means for storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area; and
~~area.~~
- f) means for searching through said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area for matches with a user search criteria.

Claims 54-65 (Canceled).

66. (Original) A method of searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

a) making available to a user a software application for installment on said user's computing device, said application comprising instructions to:

- i. execute a query as specified by said user;
- ii. search predetermined Internet sites and exchanges;
- iii. display search results to said user via said terminal, said search results comprising one or more intellectual property listings; and
- iv. enabling said user to indicate a listing of interest; and

b) assigning a transaction manager to contact said user and the source of said listing to facilitate a desired transaction related to said listing of interest.

67. (Original) The method of Claim 66, further comprising maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users for downloading said software application into said user's computing device.

68. (Original) The method of Claim 66, further comprising prompting said user for personal information, said information used by said software application to automatically register said user with a plurality of Internet auctions and exchanges.

69. (Original) The method of Claim 68, wherein said personal information comprises one or more of the user's name, the user's password, the name of a company, an address, a phone number, and an e-mail address.

70. (Original) A system for searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

- a) means for maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users; and
- b) means for downloading a software application to a user's network terminal, said application comprising instructions to:
 - i. execute a query as specified by said user;
 - ii. search predetermined Internet sites and exchanges via said user-interface site;
 - iii. display search results to said user via said terminal, said search results comprising one or more intellectual property listings; and
 - iv. enabling said user to indicate a listing of interest; and
- c) means for assigning a transaction manager to contact said user and the source of said listing to facilitate a desired transaction related to said listing of interest.

71. (Original) The system of Claim 70, further comprising prompting said user for personal information, said information used by said software application to automatically register said user with a plurality of Internet auctions and exchanges.

72. (Original) The method of Claim 71, wherein said personal information comprises one or more of the user's name, the user's password, the name of a company, an address, a phone number, and an e-mail address.

Claims 73-85 (Cancelled).

86. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein said goods or services are offered.

87. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein said goods or services are wanted.

88. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings available for transacting comprises third-party sources selected from the group consisting of an exchange site and an auction site.